



---

**KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**  
**Lawrence A. Stelma - Sheriff**

---

701 Ball Avenue, N.E. • Grand Rapids • Michigan • 49503



## **Kent County Emergency Management Division**

### **FLOODING UPDATE**

**April 21, 2013**

- Kent County remains under a declaration of emergency
- Overall conditions are stable in Kent County; however officials are continuing to monitor water levels. Water levels are receding in the City of Lowell and in Ada. The river is currently cresting in Comstock Park and in the City of Grand Rapids. It is expected to reach its full crest between late Sunday evening to early Monday morning.
- The Kent County EOC is still activated and in communication with the City of Grand Rapids EOC. We are in touch with our local fire chiefs, EMS, and other response agencies for activity updates.
- Currently in Kent County, we have 3 active shelters manned by the American Red Cross. The Kent County animal shelter is assisting evacuees by housing their pets.
- Kent County Health Department is maintaining a NO CONTACT Advisory for the Grand River and is assessing and monitoring for emerging health threats.
  - In addition to the fast-moving current, the flood water poses other dangers from debris and possible contamination. "Contact with the water could lead to illness in humans and animals – infectious organisms such as E. coli, Shigella, and Salmonella," said Adam London, Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. "Stay away from the Grand – as well as any other creeks or rivers – until further notice. We also recommend keeping pets away from these waters."

**\*\*Until the flooding event passes, we ask all residents, regardless of water and sewer type, to use water very conservatively. This means:**

- Flush the toilet less;
- Shower for shorter time;

- Avoid doing laundry, or do larger loads at once;
  - Avoid the dishwasher – hand-wash dishes instead.
- The Road Commission reports no additional road closures although all road closures from Saturday remain in effect. We urge motorists to observe road closure barricades.
- Law enforcement officials strongly urge motorists to stay out of the flooded areas. Reports have been received of curiosity seekers causing traffic problems for law enforcement personnel.
- Evacuations: approximately 530 persons evacuated their homes in Kent County.
- Kent County Equalization has been in the process since Friday, assessing damage and this process will continue throughout this event.
- Kent County volunteer groups have been active, assisting responders in EOC, damage assessment, and shelter activities.
  - American Red Cross and Salvation Army are coordinating mobile feeding efforts for volunteers and shelter evacuees.
- Kent County and City of Grand Rapids Emergency Management personnel viewed the flooded areas via the MSP helicopter this afternoon.
- At this time, Kent County EOC is monitoring the situation and is in communication with the NWS for weather and flooding projections and updates. Small streams have been receding and some are near normal levels as the water is moving down stream. We are still encouraging people to stay out of the flood areas, observe barricades and do not drive through water.